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WATERS.

Our New Factory has been recently fitted with automatic Steam Machinery of the latest and most approved kind, and we are well able to compete in quality with the best English makers.

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When practicable, are despatched by a steamer leaving after receipt of order.

For Coast Ports, Waters are packed and placed on board ship at Hongkong prices, and the full amount allowed for Tonnage and Empty when received in good order.

Counterfeit Order Books supplied on application.

Our Registered Telegraphic Address is "SPENSADRY, HONGKONG." And all signed messages addressed thus will receive prompt attention.

The following is a List of Waters always kept ready in Stock:

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- SETZGER WATER
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- SARSAPARILLA WATER
- TONIC WATER
- GINGER ALE
- GINGERADE

No Credit given for Bottles that look dirty or soiled, or that appear to have been used for any other purpose than that of containing Aerated Waters, as such Bottles are never used again by us.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.
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London Office, 5, Fenchurch Buildings, E.C.

Hongkong, 7th May, 1904.

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The Daily Press.
—HONGKONG, MAY 16TH, 1904.

So long as it was a "forbidden land" and a "hermit kingdom" a certain halo of romance and a desire of mystery clung to Korea.

More intimate acquaintance with the peninsula has robbed it of most of the mystery, and the opening up of the country to trade has done it of much of the romance.

It is reserved, however, for foreign travellers to strip Korea of its last vestiges of mystery and reveal it in its naked simplicity and equality to the Western world.

Mr. CANNON very much to make the real Korea known by the account he gave of his travels in it, and his narrative is now supplemented by that of Captain CAVENDISH, of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlands, who in company with Captain GOULD-ANDERSON, made a long journey through Korea in 1891, the latter also accomplishing the ascent of the Sacred White Mountain, on its northern frontier close to Manchuria.

The gallant officers left Hongkong on the 15th August, 1891, and arrived at Chemulpo, the port of Seoul, on the 28th idem. After a short stay in the capital they set out with the necessary attendants and ponies for Wonsan, and from thence to Poonoon, on the northern frontier, where they parted company. Captain CAVENDISH returned to Wonsan, and his comrade to climb the Sacred White Mountain, whose snow-capped summit was visible from their point of divergence.

The travellers met with no obstruction in their journey except from lazy servants; beyond a not unnatural inquisitiveness, the natives gave them no trouble and, except on one occasion, displayed no incivility much less active hostility. The gallant officers were provided with passports, and the district officials as a rule showed them considerable attention, in some cases manifesting a certain amount of friendly interest in their expedition.

The roads, or what passed for roads, were often rough and tortuous, the animals they rode on feeble and vicious, the native houses when they were unable to set up the tents they carried—were dirty and uninviting, and the food supply somewhat scarce and monotonous, but the country is often beautiful and sometimes grand, owing in great degree to its mountainous character. But the towns were small and poor, the shops only supplied with the cheapest necessities, and the villages were more clusters of poor huts. The soil is in many parts very fertile, but the people generally are indolent, and there are too many drooping in the shape of officials who batten on the industry of the remaining population to allow of the accumulation of wealth anywhere.

of incursions are multiplied, while the drought and heat of native produce is to be procured. The contempt shown for property life by all officials, and every Seoul-born man, is most amusing, and many were the lamentations we subsequently heard from town-bred men, obliged to live elsewhere, or, the said and uninteresting existence they led.

The acceptance of office is merely a means to an end—that is, the amassing of wealth, which may be spent in the pleasures of this life in the capital of Korea. The darkest side of the picture lies in the crowded collection of hovels, swarming with human (and insect) life, absolutely devoid of even elementary sanitation; where the use of soap is confined to a few of the highest classes; where disease and vice have lived in close partnership for several hundred years; where dishonesty and oppression are carried to their utmost limits; where torture and cruelty exercise full sway, and where private and political intrigue, humbug, and hindrance any improvement in, or amelioration of, the conditions of life of the great bulk of the community.

The King is theoretically the father of his people, but he is really a puppet in the hands of the Queen, a strong-minded woman, whose relatives and adherents fill most of the principal appointments. Captain CAVENDISH tells us that immorality of all kinds is rampant in Seoul, and as a consequence the general condition is syphilitic, and he saw some horrible cases of this disease. The gallant Captain is of opinion that the northern Koreans are not of the same race as the idle loitering people of the south. They are hard working and industrious, have longer faces with aquiline noses, while the almost-shaped eyes and high cheek bones are almost entirely absent. They are also cleaner and better dressed. The position of woman in Korea is more degraded than in China. She is, says Captain CAVENDISH, "merely a useful machine to provide for the wants of the man; marriage is a bargain, and chastity is expected only from the wife." Her part is to bear children to rise with the dawn, to keep the fields, garden, house, and stables in order, and in short to be general drudge for her lord and master. The women and children are always at work either indoors or out in the fields, but the male Koreans through the greater part of the year, only working when it is unavoidable. The country might be made to produce much more for export than it is at present, but the average Korean peasant is content if he can obtain sufficient to satisfy his few wants, and is the least anxious for surplus wealth as he knows it would soon fall into the hands of the mandarin. There there is no disposition to seek for any improvement in their lot on the part of the people, and no incentive to exertion to raise the standard of civilisation, which is far below that of either of the neighbouring empires.

Emancipation, unassisted, and unenterprising as the Koreans are, and scanty as are their resources, Captain CAVENDISH is evidently not inclined to think Korea is in any great danger of absorption by her neighbours. "The continuance of Korea as a kingdom," he writes, "depends, not on her military or naval resources, but on her geographical position and the jealousy of her neighbours. Any danger there may be lies in the proximity of Russia."

But even here her safety is assured by the necessity for Japan and China to unite against the annexation by Russia of a country so situated as, in the hands of a hostile power, to command their main trade routes. Moreover, other Powers would not regard with equanimity her acquisition by Russia, for it would be a standing menace to their trade and the safety of their colonies and possessions in Eastern waters." This is true enough in the present. It is not too much to add, perhaps, that the southward descent of the Muscovite on Wonsan and Broughton Bay was only stayed in time by the somewhat tardy assertion of her suzerainty by China, by whose intervention Korea was induced to emerge from her seclusion and cultivate relations with the Western Powers. But though Russia has been thus checkmated by the wily Li HUNG-CHANG, who would be vain to assume that she has abandoned her intention. The rivalry and feud between Russia and China, though it has in past years been confined to border fights, is of very old standing, and is likely rather to grow than to diminish. The construction of a vast and costly work is the Trans-Siberian Railway has not been undertaken for commercial or even for colonising purposes only. We do not say that it is being built for military purposes only or even with a deliberate design to again rectify the Siberian frontier or to push down into Korea, but such an eventually was not lost sight of when this work was projected. Russia is not in a hurry, and the present Czar has shown little inclination for war, but Russian policy is one of persistence, waiting for the opportunity, which sooner or later will occur, to press her demands. The successor of ALEXANDER III. may be less pacific or more amenable to the influence of the military party. In any case, there is the shadow of a coming conflict between Russia and China, in which Korea may play a prominent if unwilling part. Other observers have discerned the portents. Mr. EDGAR BOULANGER, a Frenchman who has just published notes on a journey through Siberia, in which he gives an account of the Trans-Siberian Railway, expresses the opinion that the coming war between Russia and China will be the event of the twentieth century. "And if things are allowed to come to a head through constant border troubles possibly fostered for the purpose, no doubt the struggle will be a huge one, but not if Russia can again, as in 1860, avail herself of China's extremity. And the chances of this are not, after all, so very remote. The Eking Government seem bent on inflicting and irritating those who would otherwise be her fast friends. Year by year the Ministers of the Emperor KWANGSI grow more strongly anti-foreign, more hostile to their treaty obligations, more indisposed to render justice for wrongs committed, more haughtily inaccessible to reason, and more than ever resolved, apparently, to drive the foreigners out of the country. The Treaty Powers have endured very much already; they may

endure more, but they will not endure indefinitely. The contest is a desperate one, and the result will be decided in the end. The contest is a desperate one, and the result will be decided in the end. The contest is a desperate one, and the result will be decided in the end.

There were 174 visitors to the City Hall Museum last night, of whom 151 were Europeans. The P. O. steamer *Manila* left Singapore on the 15th at 5 p.m., and may be expected here about Monday the 21st.

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